

Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance

In the matter of:)	
)	File Number 1999225-078-001
Larry P. Edwards)	
)	Default Order Revoking
662 Taggart Avenue)	Resident Insurance Agent's License
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646.)	
_____)	

This matter comes before me pursuant to a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing served, as required within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 1999), by the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance upon Larry P. Edwards, a licensed South Carolina resident insurance agent, by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail on December 30, 1999.

By that letter, Edwards was informed of his right to request a public hearing upon the allegations of impropriety contained within the letter against him. Further, he was warned that his failure to make a timely, written request would result in my summary revocation of his license to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina. Despite that warning, as of January 24, 2000, Edwards had neither timely answered nor requested a public hearing. On that day, therefore, counsel for the Department filed an Affidavit of Default, and submitted the entire matter directly to me for my summary decision based solely on the record.

The letter alleged, and I now find as fact, that while licensed to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina for American General Life and Accident Insurance Company, Edwards failed to turn-over or satisfactorily account for insurance premiums collected from citizens of this State.

S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp. 1998) provides: "The director or his designee may revoke or suspend an agent's license after ten day's notice...when it appears that an agent...has violated this title or any regulation promulgated by the department, or has willfully deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State." This Code Section goes on within Subsection (3) to describe "deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State" specifically to include, "failing to transmit promptly or pay all or a portion of the amount of an insurance premium when the agent...has received payment from a customer or insured."

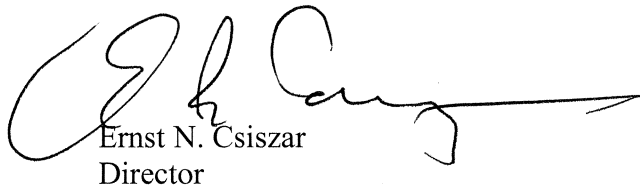
In accordance with my findings of fact, and considering Edwards's failure to avail himself of his opportunity to be heard, I now conclude, as a matter of law, that Edwards violated S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp. 1999) and that his resident insurance agent's license should be revoked.

This administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's, *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 1999). Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110(4) (Supp. 1999), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the law relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that the license of Larry P. Edwards to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina be, and is hereby, revoked, and that no license issued through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to be issued to him.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order shall be transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its current member states and to each insurer for which Larry P. Edwards is currently licensed, through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance, as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina.

This order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.


Ernst N. Csiszar
Director

January 26, 2000, at
Columbia, South Carolina

Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance

In the matter of:)

File Number 1999225-078-001

Larry P. Edwards)

Affidavit of Default

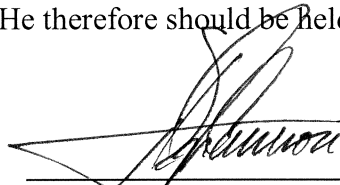
662 Taggart Avenue)

Greenwood, South Carolina 29646.)

T. Douglas Concannon personally appeared before me, and, being duly sworn, stated that he, at all times relevant to this Affidavit of Default, was the attorney representing the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance in this administrative action. He further stated the following:

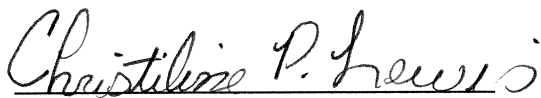
Larry P. Edwards was served notice at the address detailed above by a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing that the Department of Insurance would request that his license to act as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina be summarily revoked by the Director of Insurance for the State of South Carolina. That notice was served, pursuant to § 38-3-170 of the South Carolina Code by "depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the person and registered with the return receipt requested." Further, by that letter, Edwards was also served notice of his opportunity, within ten days, to request a public hearing. That service was effected by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail.

The United States Post Office returned the certified letter to the Department, having marked it as "Unclaimed." See Attachment One. The letter sent via regular mail was not returned. Edwards has neither timely answered nor requested a public hearing. Edwards is required as a licensed insurance agent to notify the Department of any change of address within 30 days. See S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-107 (1989). He therefore should be held in default.



T. Douglas Concannon
Associate General Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 24th day of January 2000.



Christiline Lewis, Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 11/20/06